

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

When an instruction for still image recording is input, input digital image data is stored as still-image data in a still image frame memory. A still-image recording control circuit changes over a switch so as to input the still-image data from the still image frame memory to a compression encoder circuit for a predetermined period of time, where the same still-image frames are continuously encoded. The still-image recording control circuit further controls a motion compensation prediction circuit so that motion compensation deliberately is not performed for still image recording to suppress the occurrence of motion vectors. The still-image recording control circuit also controls a quantization circuit so as to perform coding with a smaller quantization step for still image recording than for motion picture recording. In this manner, high-quality still image recording can be carried out even when the same coding scheme is used for both still image recording and motion picture recording.